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Amendments to the Claims

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An agricultural machine having at least one crop processing work unit, a plurality of crop transport units operatively assembled as a straw walker step, wherein the crop transport units convey crop streams in opposite directions and are spaced apart to define a crop through-gap, and a cleaning device having a forced-draught fan before the cleaning device, further comprising:

an exhaust fan located after the cleaning device, wherein the transport units are located between the forced-draught fan and the exhaust fan and the forced-draught fan produces an air stream which is directed from the forced-draught fan to the exhaust fan in the area of the crop through-gap and wherein the forced-draught fan creates a second air stream to carry away light straw or chaff to a rear region of the agricultural machine for discharge, thereby improving a cleaning process in the straw walker through-gap of the straw walker step.

2. (Original) The agricultural machine according to claim 1, wherein the exhaust fan is constructed as a crop comminutor.

3. (Original) The agricultural machine according to claim 1, wherein the forced-draught fan and exhaust fan generate air stream speed, which is adjustable by an adjusting means.

4. (Original) The agricultural machine according to claim 3, wherein the air stream speed is determined as a function of one of the factors selected from the group of crop type, crop throughput or moisture content in the crop.

5. (Currently Amended) An agricultural machine having at least one crop processing work unit, a plurality of crop transport units operatively assembled as a straw walker step, wherein the crop transport units convey crop streams in opposite directions and are spaced apart to define a crop through-gap, and a cleaning device having a forced-draught fan before the cleaning device, further comprising:

an exhaust fan located after the cleaning device, wherein the transport units are located between the forced-draught fan and the exhaust fan and the forced-draught fan produces an air stream which is directed from the forced-draught fan to the exhaust fan, thereby improving a cleaning process in the straw walker through-gap of the straw walker step;

wherein the forced-draught fan and exhaust fan generate air stream speed, which is adjustable by an adjusting means; and

The agricultural machine according to claim 3, wherein the air stream speed is adjusted by varying a rotational speed of the exhaust fan.

6. (Original) The agricultural machine according to claim 3, further including:
at least one air speed measuring device for measuring an air speed, located between the crop transport units; and

a control and regulating device for receiving the air speed from the at least one air speed measuring device and regulating the air speed.

7. (Currently Amended) An agricultural machine having at least one crop processing work unit, a plurality of crop transport units operatively assembled as a straw walker step, wherein the crop transport units convey crop streams in opposite directions and are spaced apart to define a crop through-gap, and a cleaning device having a forced-draught fan before the cleaning device, further comprising:

an exhaust fan located after the cleaning device, wherein the transport units are located between the forced-draught fan and the exhaust fan and the forced-draught fan produces an air stream which is directed from the forced-draught fan to the exhaust

fan, thereby improving a cleaning process in the straw walker through-gap of the straw walker step;

wherein the forced-draught fan and exhaust fan generate air stream speed, which is adjustable by an adjusting means;

at least one air speed measuring device for measuring an air speed, located between the crop transport units;

a control and regulating device for receiving the air speed from the at least one air speed measuring device and regulating the air speed; and

~~The agricultural machine according to claim 6,~~ wherein the control and regulating device is programmed with a preset target speed value, compares the air speed to the preset target speed value and sends an output speed change value to the exhaust fan to adjust the exhaust fan's rotational speed, thereby adjusting the speed of the air stream to equal the preset target speed value.

8. (Original) The agricultural machine according to claim 7, wherein the preset target speed value is a function of crop type.

9. (Original) The agricultural machine according to claim 7, wherein the preset target speed value is defined as a function of crop moisture.

10. (Original) The agricultural machine according to claim 1, wherein the exhaust fan is a crop distributing device.